

MINUTES OF THE  
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

July 16, 2001

MAG Offices

302 North 1st Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

\* Mayor Skip Rimsza, Phoenix, Chairman

Mayor Keno Hawker, Mesa

\* Mayor John Keegan, Peoria

Mayor Bill Arnold, Goodyear

Mayor Jay Tibshraeny, Chandler

\* Not present

1. Call to Order

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order by Mayor Jay Tibshraeny at 12:04 p.m.

2. Approval of May 14, 2001 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Mayor Arnold moved to approve the May 14, 2001 Executive Committee meeting minutes. Mayor Hawker seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Update on MAG Governance Task Force

Mr. Bourey distributed a list of the MAG Governance Task Force and Advisory Committee members and scheduled meeting dates. He noted that the Task Force agreed on a list of issues to be studied including issues of regional governance, roles and responsibilities of MAG, including transit planning, and MAG membership including voting membership of the Regional Council and other MAG committees. Mr. Bourey stated that the Advisory Committee met on July 10 and their next meeting is July 23. At the July 10 meeting, the Advisory Committee was updated on the history and function of MAG and other various information. He noted that the first few meetings will focus on bringing the committee up to speed with what MAG does. Mr. Bourey stated that at the August 1 meeting, the committee will address other issues.

Mr. Bourey explained that a consultant, John Parr, working with the Governance Task Force provided MAG with some additional information on studies he has done in the past. Mr. Parr is from Denver and has worked in planning and regional governance issues for a long time. Mr. Bourey noted that Mr. Parr has worked in other areas of the country, such as San Diego, Denver, Chicago, and Albuquerque.

Mr. Bourey then pointed out that there was a positive article in the Arizona Republic by Doug MacEachern who attended the July 10 Governance Advisory Committee meeting. Mayor Arnold asked if there was a Chair or a schedule for the Governance Advisory Committee. Mr. Bourey stated that there is not a Chair and the meetings have been relatively informal. He noted they are meant to be more of a roundtable discussion. Mr. Bourey stated that Chairman Rimsza suggested adding a democratic legislator to the Advisory Committee. Mayor Hawker commented that the committee had a very good mix of knowledgeable people. Mayor Tibshraeny asked what the time table was for this committee. Mr. Bourey stated that meetings will be schedule until the end of this year. He noted that Management Committee and Regional Council will be updated on the Governance Advisory Committee at their next meetings. Mayor Hawker stated that he believes that the transportation related matters should be fast tracked due to the time constraints, and that the MAG committees should be on the same time cycle as the Governor's Transportation Vision 21 Task Force.

4. Update on Governor's Transportation Vision 21 Task Force

Mr. Bourey noted that the Governor's Transportation Task Force has scheduled a set of public meetings, in open house format, to receive public input on their draft recommendations. The Executive Committee questioned if the Chair of the Regional Council thought it would be appropriate for MAG to have a position on the Governor's Transportation Vision 21 Task Force recommendations.

Mayor Hawker moved that an item be added to the Regional Council agenda recommending that a summary be prepared of the recommendations of the Governor's Vision 21 Task Force and that the Regional Council take a position on these recommendations. Mayor Arnold seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

5. Update on Phase One of the MAG Regional Transportation Plan

Eric Anderson provided an update on the development of the Regional Transportation Plan. He noted that MAG is in the Phase I process which includes the development of regional values, goals, objectives, and performance measures. Mr. Anderson stated that Phase II would include the evaluation and ranking of investment options and developing the Regional Transportation System Plan and a fiscally constrained Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), a 20-year plan. This LRTP is the basis for the 5-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Anderson discussed the area and corridor studies that are currently in progress, such as the East/West Mobility Study; Northwest, Southwest and Southeast Area Studies; Grand Corridor Study; the Park & Ride Lots Study and many others. He also noted that MAG has an RFP, in draft form, to look at future rail and other forms of high capacity transit. Mayor Hawker stated that access and ownership issues should be part of this process. Mr. Anderson stated that will be a part of the study. Some of the other Modal Studies that are in progress are the Bottleneck Study; HOV/HOT Lane Study; Regional Transit Study; Scottsdale/Tempe and Chandler Transit MIS; Light Rail Plan; Bus Rapid Transit Plan and the Elderly Mobility, which is being built into the Transportation Plan. Mr. Smith stated that MAG

will look at the different levels of responsibility in the subarea studies, such as county, state, city, and regional investments.

Mayor Hawker suggested that the same consultant look at the Northwest, Southwest, and Southeast Area Studies so that the same issues are address. Mr. Anderson explained that we looked at this option, but were concerned about consultant capacity. Mayor Hawker noted that Scottsdale is currently not a part of the Northeast Study and asked if they could be accommodated if they wanted to be part of the study at a later date. Mr. Anderson said that some of the northeast Valley issues can be addressed in the other studies.

Mr. Anderson reviewed the status of RTP tasks. He stated that the expert forms and issue papers were complete, and there are five issue papers on the MAG Web site. In addition, 16 focus groups were held, 12 of which were geographically based, two agency-based – Hispanic and African American. Mr. Anderson noted that a summary of issues from the focus groups has been compiled.

Mr. Anderson discussed the State of the Region Report which provides a profile of the existing and future socioeconomic environment and the region's transportation system. The report evaluates the adequacy of available data and identifies data gaps. He stated that the draft of the State of the Region Report is due to MAG in July. Mr. Anderson noted that a draft of the regional values, goals, and objectives that will guide future transportation investments is also due to MAG in July. Mr. Anderson stated that the next task is to develop and analyze alternative growth scenarios and transportation strategies. He stated that the bottom line is to evaluate relative performance of the transportation systems under different growth scenarios.

Mayor Arnold stated that the Southwest Study should include a 303 Loop connection with I-8 and make recommendations on job/housing balance. Mayor Hawker noted that we do not want this to become another Anthem where the trips and miles traveled are increased. Mr. Anderson stated that this would come out of the planning process. Mayor Hawker asked if the studies are looking at available land and water. Mr. Anderson noted that the State Land Department and Arizona Municipal Water Users Association (AMWUA) are part of the planning process. Mayor Hawker stated that the region grows out systematically on purpose and as a result, the free ways develop gaps. Mr. Anderson stated that is what will be studied and questions, such as "Do we do more loops" will be answered.

There being no further discussion on item number five, Mayor Arnold asked if the By-Laws should be modified to look at gender representation on the Executive Committee. Mayor Tibshraeny stated that the concern is primary with East and West representation, which is addressed in the By-Laws. Mayor Arnold noted that he believes that it is unfair to start the Regional Council meetings before there is a quorum. Mr. Bourey explained that he has encouraged that process because of the mayor's time constraints. He noted that it has been a practice to start meetings on time out of respect for everyone's schedules. Mayor Arnold noted that citizen's public comments then get slighted. Mayor Tibshraeny suggested that we discuss this at the next Executive Committee meeting with the Chair.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

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Chairman

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Secretary